

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ABF-01 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /082 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:RHARE:MVS

APPROVED BY IO:GBHELMAN

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IO/DHP:CNORRIS

NEA/ARN:NHOWELL

NEA:NVELIOTES

-----061718 101719Z /41

O R 101656Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118880

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:POR, SREF, UNRWA, LE, AV, JO, SY

SUBJECT: UNRWA PLAN TO MOVE HEADQUARTERS FROM LEBANON

REF: A) BEIRUT 2498

B) AMMAN 4080

C) DAMASCUS 2622

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1. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT UNRWA WORKING GROUP WILL BE
MEETING ON MAY 11 WITH UNRWA COMMISSIONER GENERAL
MCELHINEY, USUN SHOULD EXPLORE WITH HIM, PRIOR TO MEETING,
HIS VIEWS ON PLAN TO MOVE UNRWA HEADQUARTERS FROM BEIRUT.
WE ARE INFORMED THAT UK PLANS TO RAISE ISSUE WITH HIM
IN WORKING GROUP MEETING SO YOU MAY WISH TO COORDINATE

YOUR APPROACH WITH UK MISSION.

2. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT MCELHINEY'S PLAN TO MOVE HEAD-
QUARTERS TO VIENNA. WE GENERALLY SUPPORT ARGUMENTS
ADVANCED BY AMMAN IN REF B FOR RETAINING HEADQUARTERS IN
UNRWA AREA OF OPERATIONS. HOWEVER, WE RECOGNIZE THERE
MAY BE IMPORTANT ECONOMIC REASONS FOR LOCATING IN
VIENNA RATHER THAN AMMAN OR DAMASCUS. IF SO, WE HOPE
THAT WORKING GROUP WILL BE GIVEN A THOROUGH EXPLANATION
OF THESE BEFORE ANY DECISION IS TAKEN ON WHERE HEAD-
QUARTERS WILL BE RELOCATED. FOR EXAMPLE, COST OF MOVING

TO VIENNA AS OPPOSED TO MOVING TO AMMAN WILL HAVE TO
BE WEIGHED, ALONG WITH OPERATING COSTS IN THE TWO
CITIES. WE WOULD ALSO EXPECT THAT POLITICAL CONSIDERA-
TIONS PLAY A ROLE IN THE DECISION, AND THAT MAJOR
CONTRIBUTORS BE CONSULTED BEFORE MOVE IS MADE.

3. YOU SHOULD TELL MCELHINEY THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO
DISCUSSING THIS ISSUE AND UNRWA'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS
WHEN MCELHINEY VISITS WASHINGTON. CHET NORRIS ALREADY
HAS APPOINTMENT WITH HIM ON FRIDAY; WE WILL ALSO TRY
TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES AND
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VELIOTES. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 10 may 1978
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